

CDXC NEWSLETTER

President: G3HTA

CDXC 1989

Social Secretary: G4JVG

Treasurer: G4GED

Chairman: G4LJF

Secretary: G3LQP

Awards Manager: G4GED Vice-Chairman: G4JVG Wants List: GW4BLE

Newsletter Printing and Distribution: G4PEO

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Editor: G3XTT

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE EDITOR I suppose right now we are all taking a well-earned rest after the effort of working Bouvet and the various XW stations on all bands. It has certainly been an exciting time for DXers, though these operations also generated some of the worst behaviour I have ever heard on the HF bands. Club Bouvet did us proud on all bands and modes, and this one should now be well down the Wanted lists. Even the QRP boys had their moment and managed to get through once the pile-ups began to diminish. The 3Y5X signals on topband had to be heard to be believed. In fact, LF band propagation seemed to favour northern Europe, and many modestly equipped G stations got through on 40 and 80 while some of the "big boys" in Italy were still calling for all they were worth. Makes a nice change! A number of CDXC members made it on 5 or 6 bands. For myself, XW should take me on to Honor Roll at long last, while Bouvet gives me a margin of safety. I suspect there will be others in a similar position following these operations.

On the DXCC front, it rather looks as though Walvis Bay will be accepted on to the list, to take the total to 324. I know of at least one group who were planning to mount a major operation from there once it was accepted.

Welcome to Dave, G4BUO, who joined as the last issue had just gone to press, and to Anthony, G4UZN, our most recent recruit. I don't know of any other new members since the last newsletter, though there are a few in the pipeline. At this time we extend our best wishes to Ray, G0AEQ, who is convalescing following major surgery.

Finally, please note the deadline for the next issue. Input has been a bit thin again this time, so please try to send me something in March. In particular I would commend to you the comments by Roger, G3SXW, which appear in this issue. Your response would be very welcome, and I look forward to a healthy debate on some of these issues at this year's AGM.

Don, G3XTT

From The Chairman

Ian Shepherd G4LJF

A Happy New Year to all our Members, and a warm welcome to our latest recruits. I hope you enjoy being part of CDXC. It is especially nice to see another American in our midst, namely Dick Dievendorff G0MFO, who is "over here" for a couple of years with IBM. Dick is better known as AA6MC, and is a keen contester, and will be a great asset to the Club Contest efforts.

The year ended on a rather sad note. Ham radio lost two of it's top 80M Dx'ers, one of whom was a personal friend. Just before Christmas 'Hoppy' Hoppins W7IVX, passed away in his mid forties. Hoppy was one of the well known big signals from the West Coast, and gave many a European Zone 3 and Oregon on 80M. I met Hoppy and his wife Cathy at my last Birthday dinner which was held at Visalia. Although Hoppy had retired early for health reasons, his zest for Ham Radio had not been damped, and he had ambitious plans to improve his already enviable LF signal, which will be very much missed amongst his many friends around the world.

Around the same time, Louis Kuyken ON5YA also became silent key. I never met Louis, but I heard him often, and his characteristic CQ call was always full of energy and enthusiasm, and would never have suggested that we were to lose him from this world so soon. Dx'ers will miss both these Gentlemen, and Gentlemen they really were. They were something that this hobby of ours is losing all too quickly.

On a happier note, may I congratulate Denzil GW3CDP on becoming a member of the Honor Roll. Well done Denzil...lets hope we can get some more CDXC Members up there before long. Maybe one day I might make it too!

Your Committee held a meeting on November 11th, and I think it would be informative if I ran through what was discussed.

Bouvet Support

It was unanimously agreed that our contribution of \$250 would be paid to Club Bouvet as pledged. It was felt that it would be wrong to renege on our promise at this late stage. Information also suggested that the W9SU Dx'pedition was about to be cancelled, which reaffirmed the Committee's desire to see the Club support what was likely to be the only team to visit Bouvet Island.

As a personal comment, it was a great shame that the American expedition did not take place. Having been privy to a long telex from W6OAT detailing the real reasons behind the cancellation, there is no doubt that the emergence of two expeditions to Bouvet at around the same time led to the cancellation of one. Had the W9SU expedition gone ahead, then Dx'ers might have had two new ones for the price of nothing. However, whether the Americans would have been able to stage a successful landing on Bouvet in February without a helicopter, is something we shall never know.

Thanks though to the very fine effort by the Club Bouvet team, we should all by now have 3Y in the log on most bands, and there can be no doubt that 3Y5X has been a major success, spoilt only by the appalling behaviour that has been demonstrated on most occasions when they have appeared.

Why do people have to wreck this hobby of ours with persistent jamming, hurling of insults at each other and generally bad temper and manners? Is not Ham Radio supposed to be the hobby of international friendship? I was quite sickened by what I heard during the first few days of the operation. (I suppose one must give some brownie points for ingenuity to one station who came up taunting the USA as HP1GMN/HV0 but, how much more would we have thought of him if he had not maliciously tried to wreck the enormous effort put in by the LA group into providing us with our pleasure?).

There are those who are not Dx'ers who say that Dx chasing brings out the worst in people's behaviour. I can't help but agree with that point of view when I hear the carnage that we have experienced over the past two weeks. Of course Dx'ing by it's nature can at times be very competitive and to succeed you have to show a certain amount of aggression, but you can still be aggressive and remain a Gentleman on the bands. As I said in the beginning, there are fewer Gentlemen in this hobby these days. I wonder what Ham Radio will be like ten years on?

News Letter Costs

Contrary to an opinion expressed recently, the growing number of CDXC members has not filled the Club's coffers to overflowing. The last News Letter cost £100 to print and distribute. At six issues per year, you can see that £6 Membership fee is almost entirely taken up by the News Letter. (There is a small saving by distributing some copies at the HF Convention and A.R.M., and this money goes towards expedition support).

However, it can be seen that we have to try and reduce our costs if we are to maintain a contingency fund. Accordingly, we decided that with immediate effect, we would send out the News Letter 2nd Class mail. We also have looked extensively into reducing printing costs, but have concluded that the deal we have is cheaper than we could do even if we had our own photocopier.

In the long term, we have to decide at the next A.R.M. how we can cover the News Letter costs with less of our budget. There are two options that face us:

1/ We reduce the number of issues from six per year.

2/ We increase the subscription rate.

We would like to hear your opinion. **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Packet Cluster System

My Cluster Node is up and running well. We have had over 80 callsigns check in and see what it is all about, and have had 12 serious Dx'ers connected at the same time so far. Discussions are taking place amongst those in the West Country on whether they can raise the money needed to establish a link to Wokingham. G3OZF, G3RZP and G0ANP have very kindly offered their QTH's as 4M Nodes which would encompass the West Country without the use of the Membury tower, which would be expensive to maintain. Even using Ham locations, we need £303 to pay for 2 sets of equipment to go in at RZP and ANP.

As discussed previously, Club funds would not allow us to use any money from CDXC, which I feel is right anyway, as it would be wrong to use Club money for purposes that not everybody will benefit from.

It was decided that the Cluster should be funded by those who use it, and at the moment, I have received contributions from 10 stations, which has just paid for the software. The majority of the money donated has come from outside CDXC so far, though the majority of the users are Members! I see the Packet Cluster as a practical way of connecting the two major bodies of CDXC together, so if you have not already done so, please see if you can put something towards raising money for establishing our much needed network. My Node is capable of handling up to 64 users simultaneously.

4M has proven to be the best band to use the Cluster on. It's quiet and it's fast. If you need crystals for your Westminster, please contact Roger Brown G3LQP, as he has a stock of them at £8 the pair, that we have bought from the Sutton & Cheam Radio Club, who used to occupy the packet frequency.

A special thanks to Phil G4UDU, who has put in a great deal of time and effort in not only providing a digipeater in Sussex to give access to VKW, PEO and BUE, but he has also made sure that LJF is up to scratch too! Thanks Phil.

QSL Cards

I visited the printers in Hong Kong last week, and submitted the design. The Committee chose the photo out of a short list of 4. It is of a country street scene, which has lots of life in it, and I hope will distinguish the UK from the rest of the world to everyone's approval.

As soon as the artwork has been vetted, I will ask them to print enough cards to allow us to send one to each of you, so that you can make up your mind about ordering some. I will include details of cost etc with the card, which will I hope be sent with the next Newsletter after this.

The card should be attractive, and the rear has been designed to deal with those who hand write cards, and those who use computer labels.

Other Matters

Future Contest events. It is hoped to run maybe 2 entries in the WPX test this March. No Doubt Don will have spoken elsewhere about the details.

It is hoped to have a social event in early March, perhaps coinciding with a visit to the UK of VS6CT.

Club prospectus. John G4PEO kindly offered to embellish the work done by the Secretary into Desk Top Publishing, so that we can dish out an attractive leaflet to interested Dx'ers.

Finally, VHF procedures. There have been several moans of late about people not being able to transmit DX information on .525 because someone else has been rag chewing about other matters. This can be VERY FRUSTRATING. Can we ALL please make sure we adopt the following guidelines:

1/ If you wish to have a waffle, then please consider QSY'ing down or up a channel. (We always used to do that a few years back).

2/ If you stay on .525, please KEEP IT SHORT, and please leave a 2 SECOND BREAK between overs to allow others to interject. Failure to do this leads to people turning their 2M rigs off, and discourages them from alerting others of any DX info.

Of course the Cluster gets round all of these problems! It's nice and quiet in the shack, and you can break in whenever you want, and you miss nothing!

CU on the monitor! 73, Ian.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

FROM ROGER, G3SXW: Thank you to CDXC for the warm welcome to membership. As a long-time DXer I should have joined long ago! I look forward to participating in Club activities and, as Secretary of FOC, to helping foster links between CDXC and FOC.

As individuals we all have our personal priorities and go after different goals. That's good - variety within our sphere of particular interest. But I would suggest that CDXC is seen as a group of HF DX chasers with DXCC as the driving force. Could it be that bagging a new country/band/mode has become such a priority as to overshadow other aspects of DXing? Do we risk forgetting that many DXers and newer entrants to the HF bands enjoy making long distance contacts and getting rare ones in the log just for its own sake?

What is rare? A newly-licensed G0 was heard recently on 2 metres, thrilled to have worked his first PA0 on 80 metres CW. Let's not forget what motivated us to get started in the DXing game. There are so many aspects, including QRP, WARC bands, contests, all the way to Oblasts and US Counties, not to mention simply working DX to understand propagation and to check antenna performance.

So I come to my suggestion: we should do more to attract newcomers to HF and the world of DX. Frankly, telling a G0R.. to try and get on the DXCC Honor Roll is unlikely to inspire all but a few. Let's:

-use 144.525 and packet to alert DX that is of interest to a wider audience: a UG6 on 40 metres is a rare one after all. Just because you have got it confirmed for DXCC doesn't mean that others aren't interested. An expedition to SV9 shows on 80 metres CW - alert it! Allow that many folk like to QSO semi-rare stations just for fun, DXCC notwithstanding. DX spots could do with being increased ten-fold - any spot that doesn't interest you can be ignored, but if it fires up just one or two newcomers it is worth its weight.

-in similar vein, let's develop a shorter-term alternative goal to DXCC. tremendous fun (and a worthwhile challenge) can be derived from counting the number of countries worked within the calendar year. How about promoting a new trophy? One point per country per band (maybe double points for LF and WARC bands)? The newer DXer and those with more modest installations also then have something to aim for and which they can win, over the period of a year, and with the long-term DXCC score building up at the same time. The table in RadCom run by Henry did not attract much support but maybe such a programme could be developed by CDXC, appropriate tick-sheets (call-sign, band, date, mode) offered, and a Trophy presented annually. Publicised in the right places, entrants would come from all over the world and the cause of DXing well served.

It worries me that the more serious the DXer the less he transmits. We have dedicated DXers who hit the TX switch rarely but who are closely in touch and listening a lot. Let's increase band occupancy, increase interest in working DX, not just new ones, and give something to go for.

Finally, it is organisations such as CDXC that could take the lead on problems such as pile-up operating practices. We all suffer the frustrations of not getting through because so many callers in the pile-up just call continuously, making life impossible for the DX station. We might develop some sort of Code of Practice and publicise it. It would include, for example, not to call unless you are able to copy the DX station (and its speed of CW), not to call until you're sure you heard the end of the previous QSO. It might be worth trying both to correct the bad habits that are so prevalent on the bands and also to provide a forum for teaching newcomers. Techniques for first finding the DX station's receive frequency, to take but one example, are not written up anywhere, to my knowledge. Organisations such as CDXC are ideally positioned to do something positive.

Anyone agree? Anyone ready to take up these cudgels? Best 73 and CU on the bands.

Roger Western, G3SXW

FROM ANDREW, G0HSD: Happy New Year everyone, and it seems to have got off to a great start with 3Y! I hope everyone managed to get as many contacts as they wanted. I managed to work them a couple of times and I am very grateful to Don, G3OZF, for his help and the loan of his shack during those frantic few days.

It was especially nice to attend the Christmas meal in December. It was as enjoyable as ever meeting everyone, and particularly those who I had not met previously or

maybe only on 2m.

I have been rather inactive of late, due partly to my disaster in CQWW and partly to the fact that we are about to move QTH in the next few weeks.

We are moving to a small village near High Wycombe, almost on top of a hill with a fantastic take-off N, E and W - but a huge mound of chalk several hundred feet high stands between me and long path! (can't win 'em all!). The garden is on the spring line and has very boggy soil, so hopefully, if my planning application for a tower is successful, I should enjoy some good results.

I also look forward to joining in the fun on the PacketCluster system soon. I have seen it in action and can't wait to get my hands on a TNC.

Well, that's it from me. Best DX to everyone.

Andrew, G0HSD

FROM DREW, GM3YOR: My move to Greenock in the west of Scotland has meant a severe curtailment in my operations. At present I am living in a flat at the Residential Complex at the hospital where I work as maintenance engineer covering the building services. Antennas are difficult as there are no gardens to erect a pole and at present I have dipoles for 20/15/10 metres situated in the loft, and have problems with TVI with many portable sets in use in the accommodation.

At weekends I have been able to travel back to Fife where I have been operating from the Glenrothes and District Amateur Radio Club premises. Over the holiday period I was very pleased to finally catch XW8CW and 3Y5X, both after many frustrating hours of listening, to bring my DXCC total to 282 worked, CW only.

I also managed to put some time in during the CQWW CW Contest and results were:

| BAND | QSOS | POINTS | ZONES | COUNTRIES |
|-------|------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 160 | 48 | 49 | 3 | 29 |
| 80 | 251 | 336 | 9 | 41 |
| 40 | 294 | 466 | 12 | 43 |
| 20 | 85 | 193 | 15 | 31 |
| 15 | 225 | 569 | 21 | 46 |
| 10 | 251 | 581 | 17 | 37 |
| Total | 1154 | 2194 | 77 | 227 |

Claimed score = 666,976 points

Until I find somewhere permanent to live and get some decent antennas installed I can see that my activity will be severely handicapped, but hopefully that will not be too long in being rectified.

Meanwhile, my best regards to all in CDXC and I hope to see everyone in the near future.

Drew, GM3YOR

FROM DON, G3OZF: I am now accessing the Cluster on 70.325. Although the antenna is only at 10ft at present, it will soon be at 65ft and should help digipeating to G4LJF-4 from the North and West.

Don, G3OZF

CONTEST CORNER

I thought I had done well in the CQWW CW Contest, beating the previous UK single-op record, until I discovered that Al, G3FXB, had managed a massive 3.7 million points. Well done Al! Steve, G3YDV, also had a good run operating as XE1RYQ. G3TXF and G4BUO fought it out to a close-run finish on 10 metres single-band. Other CDXC members were also active. Another Steve, GW4BLE, achieved a high score in the ARRL 10m contest as, I am sure, did other CDXC members. The results of the 1989 CQWW 160 Contests show that CDXC was 7th in the Club Scores (out of 83 club entries), with our total being generated by myself and G4OBK. Anybody going to join the fray and add their score to the CDXC total this year? If not, at least come on and give some points to those of us who are about. Inter-G QSOs do count for this one. I hope to be operating in the CW leg, although my operating is always limited as the contest invariably clashes with my son's birthday!

CDXC will certainly be putting on one or more stations in the CQ WPX SSB Contest in March. Ian, G4LJF, has kindly offered to make his station available, and Pete, G3RZP, is prepared to do the same if he is not in the USA at the time. If you want to operate with us (multi-single) please let G4JVG know as soon as possible. If not, but you intend to operate single-op, then also let Steve know so that we can include your score in a Club entry.

As of now we have no specific plans for the ARRL contests, though I believe there may well be some latent interest. Again, please give Steve a call.

Don, G3XTT

DX CALENDAR (Txn G4DYO)

| NOW | A92QL by YASME | NOW | FT-X, FT-W |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Til Jan 30 | J3 by W group | Til Jan 30 | Caribbean by DK7UY |
| Til Jan 30 | VE3CPU/J8 | Til Jan 31 | CT3EU by G3PFS |
| Til Jan 31 | CE00GZ | Til Feb 4 | XK7 prefixes (VE7) |
| Til Feb 10 | Oblast 187 by UB gp | Til Feb 28 | UM/UI by ES1RA, etc |
| Til Jun | SM00IG/YN | Til Jun ? | G3OKQ in VR6 |
| Til Nov | KA7HCR Minami T. | Til Dec | ZM7 prefix by ZL's |
| Jan-Mar | Special LU calls | Jan-Dec | VR6 Pitcairn |
| Jan 25-Feb ? | T30 by SM7PKK?? | Feb | PY0T by PY's |
| Feb 2-4 | NA-79 Dry Tortugas | Feb 2-16 | 8Q7AH by HB9TL |
| Feb 3-4 | YU DX CW Contest | Feb 3-4 | RSGB 40m SSB Ctst |
| Feb 4-Mar 4 | PACIFIC by DL group | Feb 7-14 | JW by LA5NM, etc |
| Feb 9-?? | XW8KPL by JA3AUQ | Feb 9-19 | A61AC by ON7TK LF CW |
| Feb 10-11 | RSGB 160m CW Ctst | Feb 12-15 | NA-113 W2CQA/C6A |
| mid-Feb | Acteon Is F05BI | Feb 14-21 | T32BN |
| Feb 14-21 | TG0AA by OH2BH | Feb 14-Mar 7 | J3 by K4LTA, etc |
| Feb 16-18 | GU4ARI Alderney Is | Feb 17-18 | PJ2 by W group |
| Feb 17-18 | ARRL CW Contest | Feb 17-18 | RSGB 40m CW Contest |
| Feb 23-25 | CQWW SSB 160m Ctst | Mar | 1S by DU's?? |
| Mar 11-17 | KH5P by AH6IO? | Mar 15-31 | FJ/N0IMH |
| Mar 24-25 | CQWW WPX SSB Ctst | Mar/Apr | 6U0 by PA3CXC, OH2BH |
| Apr 6-8 | Visalia DX Convention | | |